

ADVISORY COUNCIL



Contact: 517-241-4067
www.michigan.gov/mdcr-ACAPAA

Council News



Mission Statement: To advance the full and equal participation of Asian Pacific Americans in the building of "One Michigan."



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A Message From MDCR Director Linda Parker



Greetings!

The Michigan Department of Civil Rights (MDCR) is an enforcement agency dedicated to protecting the civil rights of Michigan residents. As a state agency our mission is to secure the full and equal enjoyment of civil rights in Michigan by working to eliminate discrimination and embrace diversity. The Governor's Advisory Council on Asian Pacific American Affairs (ACAPAA) is instrumental in helping MDCR achieve this mission.

The MDCR investigations unit resolves discrimination cases by using strong research and investigations tactics to dig deep into the heart of the constituent complaints. We stand firm in promoting preventative discrimination initiatives through educational outreach in the community. These outreach programs encourage voluntary compliance with civil rights laws. They also provide information and services to businesses on diversity initiatives as well as equal employment law and procurement opportunities.

As MDCR continues to strive for diversity and inclusion within all communities, ACAPAA functions to ensure the rights of Asian Pacific Americans are included in that vision. Together, MDCR and ACAPAA collaborate to stimulate dialogue and implement action with the Governor's office. Under the Executive Order creating the Council, the Council is charged with providing recommendations affecting the Asian Pacific American community to the Governor and to the Director of MDCR. Further, ACAPAA unites organizations within the Asian community through communication and partnership networks. To help facilitate this MDCR helps ACAPAA and any partnering organization publicize and stage all Asian Pacific American events within the state.

In order to succeed in the information-based global economy of tomorrow, Michigan needs every one of its communities empowered and ready to contribute to the promise of "One Michigan."

Through the good work of ACAPAA in conjunction with the MDCR, I believe we are making strides toward that goal.

Sincerely,
Linda V. Parker, Esq.
Director, Michigan Department of Civil Rights

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ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN AFFAIRS

MISSION STATEMENT: To advance the full and equal participation of Asian Pacific Americans in the building of "One Michigan."

Council Members

Lawrence G. Almada of Canton, intellectual property attorney for Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione.

Francisco B. Borja, Jr. of Saginaw, president of Phil-Am Consulting & Tax Services, Inc.

Hansen Clarke, State Sen. for District 1, Wayne County, MI. (Honorary Member)

Ying N. Gee of West Bloomfield, international representative for Michigan UAW International, Detroit.

Maggie Chen-Hernandez of Okemos, interim director of Michigan State University's Office of Racial Ethnic Student Affairs.

Willie Dechavez of Sterling Heights, Regional Director, MI NaFFAA.

Mumtaz P. Haque of Troy, producer and host of Manoranjan Radio Show and MumtazWorld.com, past president, International Instt. of Metropolitan Detroit and India League of America, president-elect of CAPA.

Hoon-Yung Hopgood, State Representative, District 22, Taylor, MI. (Honorary Member)

Roland Hwang of Northville, Assistant Attorney General.

Susan Im of Grand Rapids, immigration attorney, founder and board member of the Asian Professionals Organization of West Michigan, active member of American Association of Lawyers (AILA).

Jayashree Kommareddi of Grand Blanc, Humanitarian Committee Member, Chinmaya Seva Samiti, board member, Mott Children's Health Center and Genesee County Free Medical Clinic. Ms. Kommareddi is designated as Vice-Chairperson of the Council for a term expiring at the pleasure of the Governor.

Radha Krishnan of West Bloomfield, president of the National Federation of Indian American Associations.

Guozhen Lu Ph.D. of Canton, tenured professor with the Wayne State University Mathematics Department.

Dominic J. Pangborn of Grosse Pointe Shores, president of Pangborn Design, Ltd.

Reginald A. Pacis of Ferndale, shareholder and attorney for Butzel Long.

Ananda S. Prasad, M.D., Ph.D. of Orchard Lake, professor at Wayne State Univ. School of Medicine.

Bhimen Rao of Bloomfield Hills, doctor at Shelby Pediatric Associates & Child Lung Center, P.C.

Michael Roblee of Troy (Advisory Member), clinical psychologist and leadership consultant at Meta Dynamics, Inc.

Ganesh V. Reddy Ph.D. of Okemos, President and CEO of Biktek Innovations.

Ernestina DeLos Santos-Mac, M.D. of Troy, M.D.FAAP, past chairperson, Philippine American Community Center of Michigan

Marilyn Y. Schlieff of Okemos, program director for the International Society for Technology in Education Professional Development Institute.

Samir Singh of East Lansing, Former Mayor of East Lansing.

Jeffrey Vang, PharmD of Mt. Pleasant, Chief Pharmacist at the U.S. Health Service - Indian Health Service Nimkee Memorial Wellness Center.

Ramesh C. Verma of Novi, retired director of Design, Construction and Utilities Office, University of Michigan Hospitals, and member of the Commission on Services to the Aging.

Marie-Ange Weng, Ph.D., R.N. of Rochester Hills, past president, Association of Chinese Americans, board of trustee, New Detroit Inc, Founding Member, CAPA, board member, National Board of the Organization of Chinese Americans and Michigan Chamber Symphony Orchestra.

Leslie E. Wong Ph.D of Marquette, president of Northern Michigan University.

Peter K. Wong of Grosse Point Farms, president and CEO of Roy Smith Company and president of the Asian Pacific American Chamber of Commerce.

Herbert Yamanishi of Lansing, president of the Mid-Michigan Asian Pacific American Association.

Tsu-Yin Wu, R.N., Ph.D. of Ann Arbor, Associate Professor at Eastern Michigan University, Director of the Healthy Asian American Project at University of Michigan.

Constantine M. Dang of Wyoming, Interim Director of Multicultural Affairs, Grand Valley State University.

Ehsaan Taqbeem of Rochester, President of the BanglaDeshi American Public Affairs Committee.

H. Sook Wilkinson, Ph.D. of Bloomfield Hills, licensed psychologist, president of Sunrise Ventures, past chair of



Council Chair

H. Sook Wilkinson, Ph.D.

Message from ACAPAA Chairperson

Most Frequently Asked Questions

"So...what does the Advisory Council do?" "tops the list. With a solid three year record behind us, I'd like to tell a couple stories to answer the question.

In May 2007, Tack-Yong Kim of MI Korean Weekly brought to us a very disturbing story. It is a well-known fact that many of the area dry cleaning businesses are owned by Korean Americans.

Many of them were being harassed by none other than a state boiler inspector. Over a period of time, they were subjected to racial slurs, disrespectful and unprofessional behaviors, and unfair financial hardship caused by unnecessary boiler repair or replacement. Yet, they endured the harassment in silence not knowing who to turn to in fear of retaliation if they spoke up.

Upon learning of the situation, the Advisory Council decided to advocate for these suffering dry cleaners. Immediately, we contacted Director Linda Parker of MDCR and Director Keith Cooley of DLEG to investigate the matter. With unprecedented speed, these two governmental entities conducted their investigations. The result? The inspector is no longer in a position to harass the hard-working, tax-paying small business owners.

The second story has to do with the nursing shortage in Michigan. In early 2006, the leaders of FANA (Far Eastern and American Nurses Association of Great Lakes) and PNAM (Philippine Nurses Association of Michigan) informed us about CGFNS (Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools) examination that deterred foreign nurses to come and work in Michigan. They had begun their work to have the CGFNS test removed and asked for our support. Many states had already abolished this unnecessary and costly step. The Council decided to support their effort and advised Governor Granholm of the merits of such an abolishment.

With the concerted efforts of the nursing leaders, Representative Hoon-Yung Hopgood, an honorary member of the Council, introduced a bill to abolish this practice and the Governor signed the bill. The result? It is easier now for well-educated, qualifying foreign nurses to work in Michigan paving the way to ease the nursing shortage crisis.

There are more stories to tell. These stories illustrate 1) how the Advisory Council advocates for the well-being of the MI Asian Pacific Americans and 2) advises the Governor on the state's policies concerning the Asian Pacific American community. A more detailed summary of the Council's accomplishments is reported in this inaugural ACAPAA newsletter.

In creating this Advisory Council, Governor Granholm charged us to work to build "One Michigan" to help ensure that "all of our people have an equal opportunity to pursue their dreams and are welcomed into our inclusive community." I'd like to thank all the Council members for their leadership, dedication, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment to the Asian Pacific American community and to the well-being of the State of Michigan.

Dr. Wilkinson is a clinical psychologist and author.
She specializes in international adoption issues.

Governor's Advisory Council on Asian Pacific Affairs Accomplishments

We are pleased to summarize our accomplishments since our Council's inception in May 2005 by Executive Order No. 2005-10:

- Completed and presented to Gov. Jennifer M. Granholm the 2006 ACAPAA Policy Recommendation Document.
- Advised Governor Granholm on national and state immigration issues of importance.
- Issued an official Council Resolution to support affirmative action.
- Conducted town hall meetings throughout the state, to offer members of the APA community an opportunity to voice their concerns.
- Contributed to, along with many other APA organizations, a donation of over \$23,000 presented to the Governor's Office to help with the Hurricane Katrina relief.
- Conducted an Immigration Law Seminar in 2007, which was attended by over 100 participants.
- Co-hosted, with the Council of Asian Pacific Americans, a Leadership Summit on Civil Rights.
- Established a website within the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, www.michigan.gov/mdcr-acapaa.
- Welcomed more than 30 guest speakers and commentators to Council meetings.

The Council continues to conduct bi-monthly Council meetings, annual Leadership Conversations for community organizations, and annual strategic planning meetings in addition to offering a proactive presence when hate crimes, economic intimidation and child welfare issues affect the APA community.

ACAPAA Committees And Their Initiatives

1. **Civil Rights** - To create an educational initiative to increase the awareness, education, and involvement of the community on civil rights issues, laws, and applications.
2. **Education** - To create strategies for inclusion of APA content in Michigan K-12 curriculum. To promote participation of APA leadership in educational governance and professional development.
3. **Health** - To create an APA health initiative that includes equal access to the healthcare system.
4. **Immigration** - To educate employers and prospective/current APA workers in Michigan on basic immigration laws.

2008 ACAPAA Calendar of Events

Council Meeting

August 1, 2008

Korean American Cultural Center of Michigan
24666 Northwestern Hwy, Southfield

September 13, 2008 CAPA / ACAPAA LEADERSHIP SUMMIT VI

Hannah Community Center

819 Abbott Road, East Lansing

September 21, 2008 Council meeting & NMU UNITED Conference, Northern Michigan University, Marquette

December 5, 2008 Council meeting

Philippine American Community Center of Michigan
17356 NorthLand Park Court, Southfield

First Statewide Asian Pacific American (APA) Leadership Summit in Michigan

Metro-Detroit - Council of Asian Pacific Americans (CAPA), in collaboration with the Advisory Council on Asian Pacific Americans Affairs (ACAPAA) and other APA groups in Michigan, will hold its first statewide APA Leadership Summit on Saturday September 13, 2008 at Hannah Community Center in East Lansing. CAPA's annual leadership summits in the past have primarily catered to the Metro-Detroit community. This year's summit is historic as CAPA expands the scope of the event to address the needs of the APA community state-wide.

This all day Leadership Summit will open with a keynote address by Ms. Mee Moua, State Senator from Minnesota. Several workshops including Economic Growth, Healthcare Access, Justice and Advancement, Civil Rights, and Voter Empowerment of Asians are planned. Special culturally diverse games and programs will be additional highlights of this summit. The Summit is open to individuals and organizations interested in topics related to Asian Pacific Americans. Registration for the event is now open. Please visit www.capa-mi.org for more information.

ACAPAA Committee Action Items

Civil Rights Committee

- 1.The Civil Rights Committee will hold town hall meetings at least once per year. The focus is to be on voter registration and voting rights.
- 2.The Civil Rights Committee will work on logistics for the Hannah Community Center in East Lansing for the September 13, 2008 Statewide Conference/Leadership Summit VI. That is proceeding.
- 3.The voter registration and voting rights piece is being handled by APIA Vote – Michigan. The session involves Stephanie L. Chang and Glenn Magtanpay of the Asian American Legal Defense Fund - AALDEF.
- 4.Jeff Vang on behalf of the council provided community support for an assault case involving a Chinese American defendant with national origins overtones on April 22.

Education Committee

- 1.The Education Committee members serve on an ongoing Bias & Sensitivity Committee of the Michigan Education Assessment Program (MEAP) for the Michigan department of Education (MDE).
- 2.The Bias & Sensitivity Committee reviews assessment items in math, science, social studies and language arts. There is one ACAPAA member in each of the four curriculum areas. Meets two-four times per year.
- 3.The Committee continues to respond to APA community concerns about World Language requirements for Less Commonly Taught Asian languages to ensure that heritage speakers receive full credit for their knowledge and use of the languages learned outside Michigan public schools. Such action might include dissemination of information to the community about HOW to request/ receive credit through their school districts.

Health Committee

- 1.The Committee continues to network with other APA organizations related to the topic of access to health care.
- 2.As part of its effort to reach out to the entire Asian Pacific American community in Michigan, the ACAPAA health committee is currently working on establishing a panel of health experts from the Asian Pacific American community on "Strategies to reduce barriers to access to health care for the the Asian and Pacific population in Michigan". This panel will make a presentation at the Statewide Leadership Conference on September 13, 2008 at the Hannah Community Center in Lansing, sponsored by the Council of Asian Pacific Americans (CAPA).

Immigration Committee

- 1.The Immigration Committee will be planning and presenting on “Hot Topics in Employment-based Immigration” at the first APA statewide conference planned for September 2008.
- 2.The Committee will continue to follow up on immigration issues affecting Michigan’s APA community including the Michigan driver’s license fiasco.
- 3.The Committee will continue to stay updated on developments in immigration and immigration-related legislation that impacts Michigan’s APA community and educating/informing the Governor’s office and our council members on same.
- 4.Where appropriate, the Committee will make recommendations to the Governor’s office on immigration and immigration-related legislation that impacts Michigan’s APA community.